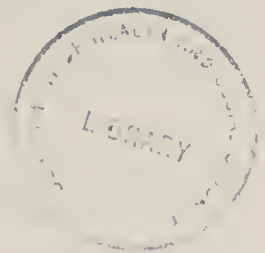


MILNROW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970



MILNROW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

for the year 1970

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my seventh Annual Report.

1970 ended with the most tragic and untimely death of the Lancashire County Council Public Health Inspector, Mr. K. Walnesley. Because of his efficiency, friendly manner and genuine interest in the Districts he served, Mr. Walnesley was always a welcome caller. No matter how busy he may have been, he always made time to discuss, advise or assist in any way he could. His passing was widely mourned and Milnrow is not the only District in which he will be sadly missed and which will be the poorer for his passing.

The first full year of the implementation of the 1969 Housing Act brought a welcome increase in the number of properties improved during the year and every indication is that 1971 will bring even greater increases. During the year 4 applications for the maximum £1,000 grant were approved. Payment of grant was responsible in no small way to the steady reduction in the number of pail closets, while this report shows only 5 pail closets less than the previous year, work was in progress at the end of the year to replace many more by the provision of septic tanks.

The fairly frequent bad discolouration of water supplies and the occurrence of cutting off supplies without prior warning brought many very angry complaints. While this arose quite often from major main bursts, this has not always been the case and protests made by the Council to the West Pennine Water Board for this apparent lack of consideration have been fully justified.

A very high standard has been maintained in the purity of the water at the Roch Valley School Swimming Pool. As can be seen from the report not one of the samples taken proved unsatisfactory. The results are particularly pleasing considering the amount of use of the pool and the fact that the caretaker is virtually self trained. As far as I can ascertain the County appears to have no official instruction or training course in this field and much seems to depend on the school caretaker's willingness to find things out for himself. I feel that even a short course on this subject would do much to ensure a high standard of pool maintenance in the County.

There is no such shortage of instruction in the County's School Meals Service. Kitchen staffs in the District's schools are obviously well versed in hygiene matters with the result that the standard of cleanliness in these kitchens has been excellent throughout the year. An expansion of similar training of staff in private industry would be more than welcome where the kitchens are in the main quite good and most of the staff conscientious about cleanliness but do not always have sufficient knowledge of hygiene to realise their methods may be wrong and in some cases could be harmful.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year (20,336) was slightly greater than during 1969 (19,564) though the amount of meat condemned during the same period showed a decrease. 1724 animals were found to be affected with disease or injury compared with 2,296 the previous year. This was I think mainly due to the frequent total condemnation of poor quality animals in the past making the dealing in such animals for food a less profitable undertaking.

For the second successive year the number of vehicles abandoned in the District decreased and in every case such vehicles were removed by the owner. Again there was no necessity to take legal action, the threat of doing so and a reminder of the high penalties involved was sufficient to secure removal of the vehicles.

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The District's first trial paper sack scheme for refuse collection was introduced on an estate of 69 properties and appears to have been well received. Any disadvantages arising seem to be outweighed by the advantages of a quieter, cleaner and easier collection.

The Council were more fortunate than many authorities being unaffected by industrial disputes which disrupted many of the Country's refuse collection services. Credit is due to the collection teams for the very good service they have again maintained. Complaints have been few and many of these were through matters beyond the control of the collectors, parked vehicles blocking access, locked gates, hot ashes in bins, and lines full of washing strung across entries, being the main reasons for bins being missed.

Refuse disposal difficulties presents a far more gloomy picture. A rapidly filling tip and a shortage of more tipping space resulted in the Council's participation in a Regional disposal scheme. The proposed scheme offering total incineration appeared to be the answer to a prayer but doubts of the scheme receiving loan sanction could mean a serious disposal problem in the near future. The distance to existing disposal plants, operated by other authorities, would make disposal there an expensive proposition as well as causing inevitable delays in collection. Even these plants may not be available to Milnrow if Rochdale, who would be similarly affected if new plant does not materialise, should make use of them.

Use of the Council's free disposal service of bulky domestic waste, furniture, cookers, etc. increases yearly and every week the collectors now have a formidable list of pick-ups to handle. However it would seem that some have not yet heard of the service or do not choose to use it for all too often they dump mattresses, old chairs and the like throughout the District to the annoyance and inconvenience of others. Surely it must be much easier to lift a 'phone or send a note to the Health Department than to hump these large articles of furniture to some secluded spot, presumably often at dead of night.

The increased rat activity seen during 1969 due mainly to disturbance by motorway workings, appeared less apparent during 1970 and there has been a marked reduction in the number of properties found to be infested by rats or mice. The main rat population has been found on watercourses, tips, etc. where continuous treatment has been maintained throughout the year. Treatment for mice has become a much more time consuming operation due to the now complete resistance of mice in the District to anti-coagulant poisons. The unsuitability of more severe poisons on many premises or the mouse's reluctance to nibble other poisons has resulted in often resorting to blunt instruments, old fashioned traps.

I wish to record my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their help during the year and my thanks to Mr. Taylor, Mr. Mills and Mrs. Lorimer for their invaluable help and support in carrying out the duties of the Health Department. I am also grateful to all the employees on refuse collection, rodent control and tip control for their conscientious services throughout the year.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

H. JOHNSON,

Senior Public Health Inspector

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

#### Housing

Number of dwellings erected during the year	
By other bodies	39
By Local Authority	69

#### Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	592
Number of inspections made for that purpose (incl. R.V.'s)	904
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in such a state as to be dangerous or injurious to health	61
Number of dwellinghouses (excluding those referred to under preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.	302

#### Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal notice

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its officers	51
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#### Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Public Health Act.	
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	16
Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	
(a) by owner	16
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	-

#### Proceedings under Housing Acts

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	12
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	5

#### Housing Act, 1947 Part IV - Overcrowding

Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil
Number of families therein	Nil
Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil

#### Houses in the district and their sanitary conditions

Houses	4953
Farms	65
Caravan Sites	1
Shops with dwelling accommodation	97
Public Houses, social clubs, etc.	25
Factories, workshops, lock-up shops, etc.	168
Houses, back to back	97
Houses, back to earth	6
Pail closets	71
Waste water closets	1
Water closets	4315
Ashbins	4912
Paper Sacks	69



<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>Pre-War</u>	<u>Post War</u>
4 bedroom houses	4	-
3 " "	390	139
2 " "	122	188
1 bedroom bungalows	12	101
2 " "	-	32
1 bedroom flats	-	18
2 " "	-	18
Single person flats	-	18
Prefabricated bungalows	-	-
	<u>528</u>	<u>514</u>
Total		1042
Other dwellings purchased by Council		<u>83</u>
Total houses owned by Council		<u>1125</u>

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	Housing Act 1969	House Purchase Housing Act, 1969
	Improvement Grants	Standard Grants
	No. of dwelling houses or buildings affected	No. of dwelling houses or buildings affected
Action during year		
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	33	36
(b) Approved by Local Authority	33	36
(c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry	2	-
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	2	-
(e) Work completed	21	30

#### Water Supply

The water supply to the district was provided by the West Pennine Water Board. The water is from the moorland gathering ground. Of the 3967 dwellings of the district 3822 are supplied from the mains. The houses not receiving mains water are those scattered throughout the outer fringe where there are no water mains and are farm houses and small hamlets. The supplies being from private wells and springs. Frequent discolouration due to suspended matter, occurred in the mains supply. Isolated cases of poor supply due to build up of sediment in pipes also occurred.

#### Sampling

14 samples were taken from public and private water supplies for bacteriological examination, of these, the water from 7 private supplies proved to be unfit, alternative supply was arranged.

There are no stand pipes in the district.

#### Swimming Baths

There is one school swimming bath, used by various organisations in the District as well as by schools.

Method of treatment is by continuous filtration with a 6-hour turn over period and breakpoint chlorination.

#### Number of Water samples taken

Bacteriological 28 - All satisfactory.  
Chemical 8 - All satisfactory.

#### Sewage Disposal

Most of the district is sewerred and the sewage is treated at the sewage works at Uncouth.

The number of pail closets in the district is now 71. The night soil collection is carried out by a gully emptier fitted with night soil attachment and disposed of by discharging into the sewer for treatment at the sewage works.

#### Public Cleansing

##### Domestic Refuse

The cleansing service is operated by one 20-cu.yd. and one 12 cu-yd. dual tip vehicles and one 25 cu.yd. vehicle with mechanical packer which are staffed by two drivers and six men. A weekly service was maintained throughout the District with the exception of 60 properties in the out district where a fortnightly collection was made.

The refuse is emptied from 4192 ashbins and 69 paper sacks.

The refuse collection vehicles covered 6,664 miles and collected 1,325 loads.

This represented approximately 24,000 cu.yds. or 3,430 tons of refuse.

#### Disposal

The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping. The 3,430 tons of refuse were disposed of by levelling, covering with earth and consolidating with the mechanical shovel. Any nuisance arising has been quickly remedied.

#### Dustbins

The providing of dustbins under the municipal bin scheme is still working very satisfactorily and during the year 243 ashbins have been renewed and 38 new ashbins provided, plus 69 paper sacks now in use on The Cray.

#### Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

#### Clean Air Act, 1956

34 observations, visits and inspections were made regarding the provisions of the Clean Air Act.

#### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

One rodent operator is employed full time.

	Types of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	4812	65
(b) Total number of properties (incl. nearby premises) inspected following notification	153	14
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	36	11
mice	66	2
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	2	-
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	2	-
mice	-	-



There appears to have been increased rat activity on rivers, watercourses etc. Concentrated treatment of these, refuse tips, etc. carried out.

### Factories

There are 53 factories in the district made up as follows :-

Bakers	5
Bleaching and Dyeing	3
Core Oils and Foundry Machinery Renovation	1
Cotton Spinning and Cotton Waste Spinning	7
Engineering	5
Handicrafts	1
Henning and Packing Blankets	1
Joiners	6
Laundry	1
Motor repair garages	4
Non Ferrous Foundry	1
Paper Tube Manufacturers	1
Plastic Bag Manufacturers	1
Portable Buildings	1
Printers	2
Slaughterhouses	4
Spring Makers	3
Surgical Cotton Manufacturers	1
Waste Recovery	1
Woodwork machinists	1
Wool Sorter	1
Precast Concrete	1
Fibre Glass Products	1

### Schools

There are 5 schools, 3 of which are Local Authority owned and 2 Non-Local Authority owned.

All 5 schools are on the district's main drainage system and have mains water supply.

4 of the 5 schools have kitchens and school meals are prepared in situ while the fifth school has meals delivered to a scullery.

### Milk

18 samples of milk were taken for biological examination, the results being as follows :

	Results		
	Positive	Negative	No result
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test	3	15	-
(c) " Culture Test	1	2	-
(d) " Biological Test	-	-	-

One cow found to be excreting Brucella organisms was disposed of.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

There are 98 food premises, 136 visits have been made to these premises.

### Food Premises

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>No.</u>
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Butchers	8
Fried Fish & Chip	6
Greengrocers	7
Grocery and Provisions	21
Sweets and Soft Drinks	2
Restaurants, canteens and snack bars	12



Licensed premises - public houses and clubs 25  
Others 8

## Inspection of Meat and Other Foods

### Slaughterhouses

There are four private slaughterhouses in operation in the district.  
100% meat inspection was maintained throughout the year.

### Controlled hours of slaughtering

2 slaughterhouses 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday.  
2 slaughterhouses 8.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Friday and  
8.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Saturday.

During the year 2,622 visits have been made to slaughterhouses.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1727	1763	821	9408	6617
Number inspected	1727	1763	821	9408	6617
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	58	19	4	17
Carcasses of which some part or Organ was condemned	175	504	11	208	618
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	10.25	31.86	3.65	2.25	9.59
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	98
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.48
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	6	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	3	-	-	-
General and total condemned	-	-	-	-	-

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955

### Sampling

The Lancashire County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority and carry out this work.

A total of 49 samples was obtained comprising 35 milks (1 of which was Channel Islands milk) and 14 others as follows :-

1 Orange Drink (to be diluted)	1 Soup Mixture, dry
1 Beef Curry with Rice, dried	1 Coffee
1 Chicken Curry with Rice, dried	1 Irish Stew, canned
1 Fish, canned	1 Meat Paste
1 Breakfast Cereal	1 Chicken in Jelly, canned
1 Pudding, canned	1 Corned Beef
1 Biscuits	1 Junior Dessert, canned (Apples)

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports :-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>
Informal (Channel Islands) milk	Contained .09 Units per cm <sup>3</sup> penicillin.	Producer notified.
Irish Stew, canned	Meat content only 15½%. Should either contain 35% meat or be additionally labelled "Ready Meal" (illustration on can suggests the presence of approximately 24% meat)	Manufacturer advised.
Corned Beef	Contained a lump of concrete weighing 11½ grammes which had certainly been canned with the meat.	Complainant informed and packers cautioned.

#### Shops Act

There are 107 shops, 25 public houses and clubs and 2 off-licences.

<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Number</u>
Boot and shoe	2
Butchers	8
Chemists	1
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Drapers	7
Electrical Goods	3
Fancy Goods	1
Fried Fish and Chips	6
Gowns	1
Grocery and Provisions	21
Hairdressers	15
Hardware	4
Herbalist	1
Newsagents	8
Paint and Wallpaper	2
Pet Food and Gardening Equipment	1
Sweets and Tobacco	2
Greengrocery and Fish	7
Drug Store	1
Betting Shops	3
Launderettes	3
Optician	1

#### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

##### Class of Premises

	Offices	Retail shops	Wholesale shops warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
(a) No. of registered premises at end of year	4	14	1	9	2
(b) No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during year	2	7	-	1	-
(c) No. of exemptions current at end of year	-	-	-	-	-
(d) No. of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises - 26					



Civic Amenities Act, 1967

22 vehicles were found apparently abandoned. All were removed by the owners after action taken by the department.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Inspection of dwellinghouses (for all purposes)	561
Re-inspection of dwellinghouses	343
Inspection of factories	36
Visits re Clean Air Act	34
Inspection of drainage	711
Visits re water supplies	53
" re water samples	15
" re rodent control	210
" re slaughterhouses	2632
" re Food and Food Hygiene Regulations	136
" re Derelict Buildings	25
" re infectious diseases	34
" re standard and improvement grants	231
" re caravans	46
" re refuse collection	434
" to refuse tips	497
" re insects	66
" re dirty premises	7
" re noise	16
" re smell	17
" re Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	26
" re nightsoil collection	5
" re sanitary accommodation	2
" to school kitchens	13
" re Animal Boarding Establishments	1
" re milk	14
" re septic tanks	60
" re watercourses	19
" re Civic Amenities Act	109
" to Swimming baths	38
" re accumulation of rubbish	7
" re Keeping of Animals	4
" re Service of Notice	7
" re Diseases of Animals	9
" to sewage works	11
" re exhumation	3
" re smoke	49
" re river pollution	2
" re Shops Act	25
" re Pet Animals Act	2
" re meat inspection	2
" re Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	4
" to Pet shops	2
" to licensed premises	3
" re derelict sites	13
" re Rent Act	2
" re dust	1
" re right of way	1
" re Health Education	2

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6540

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